

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the current application. Claims 1 and 14 are independent claims. Claims 13-16 have been added. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment that all certified copies pertaining to foreign priority claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 have been received and the indication that the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 16, 2004 and April 29, 2005 have been considered.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated whether the drawings filed on December 16, 2004 are accepted or objected to by the Examiner. As there is no discussion in the *Detailed Action* indicating that the drawings are objected to, Applicants will assume that the drawings are acceptable unless indicated otherwise in the next Patent Office communication.

I. **NEW CLAIMS**

By the present Amendment, claims 13-16 with claim 14 being in independent form. Support for new claim 13 can be found at least in originally filed claims 1 and 5. Support for new claims 14 and 15 can be found at least in Examples Y-4 (page 23, line 26 – page 25, line 4) and Y-5 (page 25, line 5 – page 26, line 22) of the original Specification. Support for claims 16 can be found at least on page 8, lines 24-32 of the original Specification.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 13-16 do not introduce new matter.

II. CITED ART GROUNDS

Claims 1 and 4-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soga et al. (hereinafter ‘Soga’), U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0049261 in view of The Society of Polymer Science Japan (hereinafter ‘Polymer Science’), Asakura Shoten (1988) and Doi et al. (hereinafter ‘Doi’), U.S. Patent No. 6,378,999. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

A. Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite an inkjet recording ink including “an encapsulated water-insoluble colorant encapsulated with a high-molecular dispersant.” The “encapsulated water-insoluble colorant” feature recited in independent claim 1 is not taught, or suggested, by the art relied upon by the Examiner.

i. Soga

Referring to paragraphs [0036]-[0037] of Soga, the Examiner asserts that “water-insoluble colorant” and the “high-molecular dispersant” are obvious over the oil soluble dye and the star polymer of Soga.

Soga, directed to ink for ink-jet recording, teaches “[w]hen ink contains an amphiphilic star block polymer as shown in FIG. 2 where the hydrophilic segments 16 are located in the outer portion while the hydrophobic segments 17 are located in the inner portion, oil soluble dye molecules 19 are captured by the hydrophobic segments 17.” Soga, page 2, paragraph [0038] (emphasis added). Therefore, Soga merely teaches that the star polymer and oil soluble dye are two components of the ink.

For instance, referring to examples 1-21 (listed in paragraph [0049]), each ink composition includes a C.I. solvent and a star block polymer. In other words, the solvent and polymer are two components of the ink. On the other hand, amended independent claim 1 recites “an encapsulated water-insoluble colorant” (*i.e.*, one component) wherein the encapsulated water-insoluble colorant is “encapsulated with a high-molecular dispersant.”

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Soga provides no teaching or suggestion that the oil soluble dye molecules 19 are encapsulated with the star polymer to form encapsulated oil soluble dye molecules, absent an inappropriate hindsight reconstruction of the Applicants' invention.

ii. SECONDARY REFERENCES: POLYMER SCIENCE AND DOI

All other secondary references recited upon by the Examiner fail to remedy the deficiencies of Soga with respect to amended independent claim 1.

As such, Applicants submit that Soga in view of Polymer Science and Doi fails to obviate or anticipate “an encapsulated water-insoluble colorant encapsulated with a high-molecular dispersant” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

B. Independent Claim 14

Independent claim 14 also recites “an encapsulated water-insoluble colorant encapsulated with a high-molecular dispersant.” As such, newly-added independent claim 14 is patentable over the cited art for reasons analogous to those given above with respect to amended independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of each of claims 1-16 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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